

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-10 FEA-01 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 SS-15
STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01
XMB-04 OPIC-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 OIC-02
/170 W

-----281919Z 031041 /40

R 281638Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2223

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12521

DEPT PLS PASS STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, MTN, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: SPECIAL ISSUE ON US OF "LE CONSEILLER DU
COMMERCE EXTERIEUR"

1. THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
FRENCH COMMERCIAL COUNSELORS, A QUASI-PUBLIC BODY
OF FOREIGN TRADE EXPERTS, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND
PRIVATE, HAS URGENTLY ASKED OUR HELP IN GETTING SOME
OFFICIAL USG STATEMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN A SPECIAL
REPORT ON US/EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS TO APPEAR IN
THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE COMMITTEE'S MONTHLY JOURNAL
"LE CONSEILLER DU COMMERCE EXTERIEUR."

2. SINCE THE ILLUSTRATIVE TOPICS SENT TO US BY THE
JOURNAL'S EDITOR, GOUVION SAINT-CYR DEAL LARGELY
WITH EITHER TRADE POLICY OR US/EC RELATIONS, WE
SUGGEST THAT OUR CONTRIBUTION TAKE THE FORM OF
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QUESTION AND ANSWER INTERVIEWS WITH AMBASSADORS
STRAUSS AND HINTON. ALTERNATIVELY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HARTMAN MAY PREFER TO FIELD ANY OR ALL OF THE
QUESTIONS. IDEALLY OUR RESPONSES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED
TO GOUVION SAINT-CYR BY MAY 20. IN VIEW OF
IMPORTANCE OF JOURNAL'S READERSHIP IN FRENCH TRADE
POLICY FORMULATION AND AS OPINION MOULDERS WE

CONSIDER THIS A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO PROJECT IN FRANCE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES IN THESE FIELDS.

3. THE QUESTIONS POSED BY GOUVION SAINT-CYR ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) DOES PRESIDENT CARTER INTEND TO ALTER THE OBJECTIVES AND MODALITIES OF US FOREIGN TRADE POLICY?

(B) DOES THE RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF MR. JENKINS SUGGEST THAT THE US WISHES TO GLOBALIZE AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL ITS RELATIONS WITH THE MEMBER STATES?

(C) WOULD THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE EC, WHICH IS BASICALLY A EUROPEAN AFFAIR, RISK A MODIFICATION OF US COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE CANDIDATE STATES?

(D) SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE MTN SHOULD BE CONCLUDED IN 1977. IS THIS REALISTIC FROM THE US STANDPOINT, WHAT CONCRETE RESULTS IS THE US EXPECTING, AND IS THERE ANY PROSPECT OF GREATER US FLEXIBILITY ON THE AGRICULTURE ISSUE?

(E) DOES THE US SHARE THE WIDESPREAD CONCERN ABOUT EASTERN EUROPEAN INDEBTEDNESS? DOES THE US PLAN TO DEVELOP ITS COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES AND ACCORD THEM EXIMBANK AND MFN FACILITIES?

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(F) SOME PEOPLE CONSIDER THE US TRADE ACT TO BE A RATHER PROTECTIONIST LAW. SHOULD WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE USG WILL APPLY IT RIGOROUSLY TO ACHIEVE VITAL STRUCTURAL EVOLUTION IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OR TO MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT, OR WILL IT SEEK VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS WITH EXPORTING COUNTRIES?

(G) PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENERGY POLICY SHOULD LEAD TO A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE SALE OF SMALL CARS. DOES THIS PRESENT A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY FOR EUROPEAN CAR EXPORTS, OR WILL THE USG ACT TO PROTECT ITS OWN CAR BUILDERS?

(H) FRANCE HAS A VERY LARGE DEFICIT IN ITS TRADE WITH THE US. HOW DOES THE US THINK WE SHOULD PROCEED TO REDRESS THIS DEFICIT AND PROMOTE FURTHER GROWTH IN FRANCO-AMERICAN TRADE?
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4. FOREGOING QUESTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PURELY ILLUSTRATIVE. WE ARE FREE TO REWORD, ADD, OR DROP QUESTIONS AS DESIRED TO ENABLE US TO GET OUR MESSAGE ACROSS IN OUR OWN WAY. SOME OF GOUVION ST. CYR'S QUESTIONS (E.G. F AND H) REFLECT FRENCH BIASES AND MISCONCEPTIONS AND SHOULD PROBABLY BE REWORKED IN ANY CASE.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEE REACTIONS AND INDICATION OF INTENTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition History: n/a
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770149-0068
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977049/aaaaahhi.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 846279aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2903446
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPECIAL ISSUE ON US OF "LE CONSEILLER DU COMMERCE EXTERIEUR"
TAGS: ETRD, FR, US, GATT, EEC, MTN
To: STATE EC BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/846279aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009